



Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2024 Legislative Session- Week 9 (Final Week)
March 8, 2024

Sine Die! Following weeks of interim committee meetings that began in September and an intense 60-day session that began in January, the Florida Legislature officially concluded its work last week. Each legislative session is unique, and the 2024 Legislative Session was no exception as it featured a bill vetoed during the legislative session and then revived, the return of a powerful Governor from a presidential campaign trail, record setting reserves, and continued respectful dialogue between the House Speaker and Senate President. The legislature passed major policy initiatives in the healthcare, education, and technology arenas, but mostly importantly completed its constitutional responsibility by passing a \$117.46 billion state budget representing the 14th largest economy in the world. Legislators now depart Tallahassee to return to their districts for a summer of campaigning, bill signings, and leadership transitions, before returning to Tallahassee in November. The FAFP will develop a more targeted summary in the coming weeks focused on legislation that directly impacts Florida's Family Physicians.

FAFP Secretary/Treasure Dr. Michale Swartzon served as the doctor of the day on Wednesday March 6 via sponsorship by Representative Mike Gottlieb. However, he is pictured with his local representative Hillary Cassel in the House chamber. The FAFP had a record 16 members serve as doctor of the day this session with 11 residents in training accompanying the attending physicians. Curious about coming to Tallahassee in the future to serve as doctor of the day? [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and/or reach out to Ashleigh Huff in at the FAFP (ahuff@fafp.org).



State Budget

Lawmakers passed a \$117.46 billion [budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year](#). Overall state spending will be higher than the \$117.46 billion in the budget because of separate legislation. For example, lawmakers have approved spending of over \$700 million in a major health-care bill SB 7016 that includes efforts to attract more health care providers to the state (scroll below for more details). The budget also includes spending \$500 million to pay down state debt.

The budget provides increases of \$224 million for the KidCare program and \$805 million for Medicaid caseloads and price level increases. Among other health care initiatives, the budget allocates \$10 million to further sickle cell research and over \$100 million to combat the opioid epidemic. (Senate Budget [Press Release](#))

FAFP Priority Legislation

Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians – [HB 11](#) by Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) and [SB 458](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) provide restrictive covenants which prohibit physician from practicing medicine within specified area for certain period of time are void and unenforceable. SB 458 passed 2 committees. While positive momentum for this priority legislation

was achieved during its first year of being heard, the legislation will take several years to gain favorable passage.

HB 11 and SB 458 failed to pass during the 2024 legislative session.

Legislation of Interest to Family Medicine (listed alphabetically)

Background Screening Requirements for Health Care Practitioners – [HB 975](#) by Rep. Dana Trabulsky (R-Fort Pierce) amends various Florida statutes regarding background screening requirements. The bill expands background screening requirements to include almost all licensed health care practitioners, requires that health care practitioners licensed prior to July 1, 2025, but after January 1, 2013, to comply with background screening requirements upon their next licensure renewal after July 1, 2025. The bill includes provisions for exemptions from disqualification from employment or certification based on background screening results. The bill includes all providers except Registered Pharmacy Interns and Pharmacy Technicians. The professions added to those already requiring background checks are Acupuncturists; Anesthesiologist Assistants; Audiologists; Audiologist Assistants; Clinical Laboratory Personnel; Mental Health Professionals; Registered Mental Health Profession Interns; Dentists; Dentists seeking a limited health access license; Dental Hygienists; Dieticians; Electrologists; Genetic Counselors; Hearing Aid Specialists; Medical Physicists; Nursing Home Administrators; Occupational Therapists; Opticians; Optometrist; Pharmacists; Physical Therapists; Physical Therapist Assistants; Physician Assistants; Psychologists and School Psychologists; Radiology Technicians; Respiratory Therapists; Speech-Language Pathologists; and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

HB 975 passed the House 116-0 and passed the Senate 40-0.

Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings – [SB 168](#) by Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) expands the population which must undergo mandatory CCMV testing beyond the current population of infants who fail the hearing screening to include infants admitted to neonatal intensive care units, and newborns who are transferred to another facility for a higher level of care.

SB 168 passed the Senate 34-0 and passed the House 114-0

Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings – [HB 241](#) by Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) requires Florida State Group Health Insurers to provide coverage and payment for annual skin cancer screenings performed by a licensed dermatologist without imposing any cost-sharing requirement.

HB 241 passed the House 114-0 and passed the Senate 31-0.

Coverage of Biomarker Testing – [HB 885](#) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) requires the Agency for Health Care Administration and managed care plans to provide specified coverage of biomarker testing under the Medicaid program. The bill also requires State Group Insurance to cover biomarker testing.

HB 885 passed the House 114-0 and passed the Senate 39-0.

Department of Health – [SB 1582](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) contains the Department of Health's legislative package. The bill exempts environmental health technicians from certain certification requirements under certain circumstances, creates the Andrew John Anderson Rare Pediatric Disease Grant Program within the department, provides that any health care practitioner present at a birth or responsible for primary care during the neonatal period has the primary responsibility of administering certain screenings, and revises hearing loss screening requirements.

SB 1582 passed the Senate 35-0, passed the House 114-0, and passed the Senate on final passage 40-0.

Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment – [HB 201](#) by Rep. Melanie Bell (R-Fort Meade) authorizes emergency refill of specified amounts of insulin and insulin-related supplies or equipment.

HB 201 passed the House 118-0 and passed the Senate 40-0.

Health Care - [CS/SB 7016](#) by the Senate Health Policy Committee in part of the Senate President’s “Live Healthy” Initiative. The bill revises or creates numerous provisions of Florida law relating to the state's health care workforce, health care services, health care practitioner licensure and regulation, health care facility licensure and regulation, the Medicaid program, and health-care-related education programs.

SB 7016 passed the Senate 39-0 and passed the House 117-1.

Health Care Innovation - [SB 7018](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and the Senate Health Policy Committee is part of the Senate’s Live Healthy Initiative. The bill creates the Health Care Innovation Council, a 15-member council within the Department of Health (DOH) – and funds the Council through 2035 - to facilitate public meetings across the state to lead discussions with innovators, developers, and implementers of technologies, workforce pathways, service delivery models, or other solutions.

SB 7018 passed the Senate 39-0 and passed the House 117-1.

HIV Infection Prevention Drugs – [HB 159](#) by Rep. Franklin Gallop (D-Tallahassee) allows licensed pharmacists to screen adults for HIV exposure and provide the results of such screening. A pharmacist who has screened a patient for HIV must advise the patient to seek further medical consultation or treatment from a physician. The bill also establishes a process by which a pharmacist may become certified to order and dispense postexposure prophylaxis under a collaborative practice agreement with a physician.

HB 159 passed the House 117-0, passed the Senate amended 39-0, and passed the House on final passage 113-0.

Interstate Mobility - [SB 1600](#) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) requires the regulatory boards in the Department of Professional Regulation (DBPR) to allow licensure by endorsement for any individuals who meet certain specified criteria. The bill also creates s. 456.0145, F.S., The Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement (MOBILE) Act which requires the Department of Health (DOH) to issue a license by endorsement to a qualified applicant within seven days of receipt of all required documents for specified health care professions regulated by the DOH when the applicant meets specific criteria.

SB 1600 passed the Senate 32-0 and passed the House 114-0.

Office Surgeries – [HB 1561](#) by Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera (R-Coral Gables) provides additional enforcement requirements for physicians performing certain liposuction procedures, including gluteal fat grafting procedures.

HB 1561 passed the House 112-0 and passed the Senate 39-0.

Payments for Health Care Providers and Surgical Procedures under Workers' Compensation - [SB 362](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) increases the maximum reimbursements for physicians & surgical procedures under workers' compensation. Currently, participating physicians are reimbursed at 110% of the Medicare rate for medical office visits and 140% of the Medicare rate for surgical procedures. The rates were increased to 175% and 210%, respectively.

SB 362 passed the Senate 40-0 and passed the House 113-0.

Public Records and Meetings - [SB 322](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Lakeland) is part of the Senate’s “Live Healthy” Initiative. The bill creates public records and public meeting exemptions for the

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

SB 322 passed Senate 39-0 and passed the House 118-0.

Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools – [HB 883](#) by Rep. Traci Koster (R-Tampa) authorizes schools to acquire stock a supply of short-acting bronchodilators to administer to students in respiratory distress.

HB 883 passed the House 115-0 and passed the Senate 34-0.

Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education for Physicians – [HB 7085](#) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D- Delray Beach) and Rep. Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa) creates the Sickle Cell Disease Research and Treatment Grant Program (Program) within DOH. The Program will award grants to community-based sickle cell disease treatment and research centers to fund the operation of Centers of Excellence for the treatment of sickle cell disease and the development of a health care workforce that is prepared to address the unique needs of patients with sickle cell disease. The bill also expands the existing sickle cell registry to allow adults with sickle cell disease to, at their discretion, opt into the registry. The bill does not contain a mandatory CME provision.

HB 7085 passed the House 116-0 and passed the Senate 39-0.

Legislation that did not pass during the 2024 Legislative Session

Access to Appropriate Medications for Serious Mental Illness / Step-Therapy Protocols – [HB 491](#) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 268](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart)

Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – [HB 257](#) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and [SB 810](#) by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia (R-Springhill)

Autonomous Practice for Certified Psychiatric Nurses – [HB 771](#) by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland) and [SB 936](#)

Cardiac and Medical Emergencies on School Grounds – [SB 432](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and [HB 441](#) by Rep. Taylor Michael Yarkosky (R-Clermont)

Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child – [HB 651](#) by Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R-Fort Myers) and [SB 476](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce)

Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations – [SB 932](#) by Sen. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach), Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando)

Coverage for Mammograms and Supplemental Breast Cancer Screenings - [SB 670](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and [HB 711](#) by Rep. Diane Hart (D-Tampa)

Declarations of a Public Health Emergency – [SB 402](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 459](#) by Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre)

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements - [SB 636](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami)

Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations – [SB 1112](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 1295](#) by Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness)

Health Care Services – [HB 1475](#) by Rep. Kim Berfield (R-Clearwater) and [SB 1574](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens)

Health Insurance Cost Sharing – [SB 228](#) by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange) and [HB 363](#) by Rep. Lindsay Cross (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre)

Intravenous Vitamin Treatment – [HB 227](#) by Rep. Alina Garcia (R-Miami) and [SB 672](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami)

Medicaid Eligibility for Young Adults – [SB 140](#) by Sen. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach) and [HB 277](#) by Rep. Hillary Cassel (D-Hollywood)

Motor Vehicle Insurance – [SB 464](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Peirce) and Sen. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) and [HB 653](#) by Rep. Danny Alvarez (R-Riverview)

Naturopathic Medicine - [HB 843](#) and [HB 845](#) by Rep. David Smith (R-Winter Springs) and [SB 898](#) and [SB 900](#) by Sen. Ileana Rodriguez (R-Doral)

Patient-directed Doctor's Orders – [SB 390](#) and [SB 392](#) by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)

Pharmacy – [SB 444](#) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) and [HB 493](#) by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers)

Practice of Acupuncture – [SB 614](#) by Sen. Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor) and [HB 1405](#) by Rep. Thad Altman (R-Indian Harbour Beach)

Prescription Drug Coverage – [SB 924](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 1543](#) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa)

Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists – [HB 955](#) by Rep. Gallop Franklin (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 1282](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee)

Proprietorship by Nonphysicians - [SB 316](#) by Sen. Bobby Powell (D-West Palm Beach) and [HB 345](#) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Delray Beach)

Psychiatric Treatments – [SB 252](#) by Sen. Rosalind Osgood (D-Tamarac) and [HB 255](#) by Rep. Carolina Amesty (R-Orlando)

Recovery of Damages in Claims for Medical Negligence – [HB 77](#) by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers), [HB 129](#) by Rep. Vicki Lopez (R-Coral Gables) and Rep. Mike Beltran (R-Apollo Beach), [SB 442](#) by Sen. Lauren Book (D-Plantation), [SB 248](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [SB 310](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers)

Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education – [HB 349](#) by Rep. Felicia Simone Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) and [SB 552](#) by Sen. Daryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Informational Posters – [SB 124](#) by Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando)

Termination of Pregnancies – [HB 93](#) by Rep. Fabian Basabe (R-North Bay Village)

Termination of Pregnancies – [HB 111](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) and [SB 34](#) by Sen. Lauren Book (D-Davie)